Request for Proposals

Connecticut River Swimming Feasibility and Design (Horizontal Design Services)

Proposals due **3:00 PM Friday, October 1, 2023**
Submit in electronic form (no hard copies) to Ann-Marie Moggio, City of Northampton, Park & Recreation Director, AMoggio@northamptonma.gov

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Questions to Ann-Marie Moggio at the above email or at (413) 587-1040.

City of Northampton, MA is seeking horizontal design proposals from experienced and qualified design professionals for the purpose of conducting a full feasibility followed by full design (if determined to be feasible) of a public swimming area on the banks of the Connecticut River, 80 Damon Rd, Northampton, MA. Full design would be subject to Massachusetts procurement requirements if a building design is considered. The area of study is part of a combined Connecticut River Greenway Park, person powered boat launch and conservation area. The City seeks to understand the feasibility and develop a full design of a formalized safe, managed public swimming area for all ages and abilities, while maintaining safe person-powered boat launch access. Such a swimming area would be seasonally available similar to existing public swimming areas managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Feasibility shall consider:

1. Swimming Requirements and Safety
    a. Swim Safety
    b. Beach sustainability
    c. Water Quality
    d. High water levels in past
    e. Currents of the river
    f. Depths of the water and underwater features
    g. Are there concerns with higher water levels and future damages to the Beach or other infrastructure
    h. Differentiated water access for all users: non-powered and powered boaters, swimmers, beach users
    i. City & State Health Department and/or other regulations for public swimming
    j. Potential for natural change in river characteristics that might affect short and long term viability of this site.
2. Maximum size of swimming area and capacity
3. Permitting and Associated Costs
4. Environmental Issues, Permitting and Feasibility
5. Consider trash and sanitary improvements.
6. Consider changing facilities and potable water services.
7. Methods of restricting access during closed hours.

8. Consider both light touch and capital intensive improvements, with any sanitary facilities most likely waterless (the site is not served by water or sewer).

9. Consider the lack of resources and the uncertainty of whether the city will charge for these areas.
10. Ensure accessibility for people with disabilities.
11. Staffing Requirements Options, Costs
12. Estimated Maintenance Requirements, Costs
13. Consider immediate, short term implementation and management while longer build-out is implemented.

The Designer shall work with the City to test concepts, utilizing initial information gathered from the WOLA study (attachment A) as background and foundation and shall work with the City's design/project management team for City's selection of options to proceed with full design if it is determined to be feasible.

Timeline: Designer Selected by October 15, 2023. Feasibility complete by January 31, 2024. The proposal shall include:

1. Qualifications for this work
2. Design principles to be applied to this work
3. Scope of services
4. Proposed timeline but we understand this may not be possible
5. Fixed fee
6. Fixed fee, fee estimate, or other ways to understand the full fee of developing 100% design plans, specifications, estimates, bid package, and construction administration.

Background: There is a clear demonstrated demand for more swimming opportunities, we want to explore the feasibility of creating a managed swimming area at this site. The City's Sustainable Northampton Plan calls for providing better and equitable opportunities for river access for both recreation and to provide options for residents to cool off during increasing times of heat stress during the summer months.

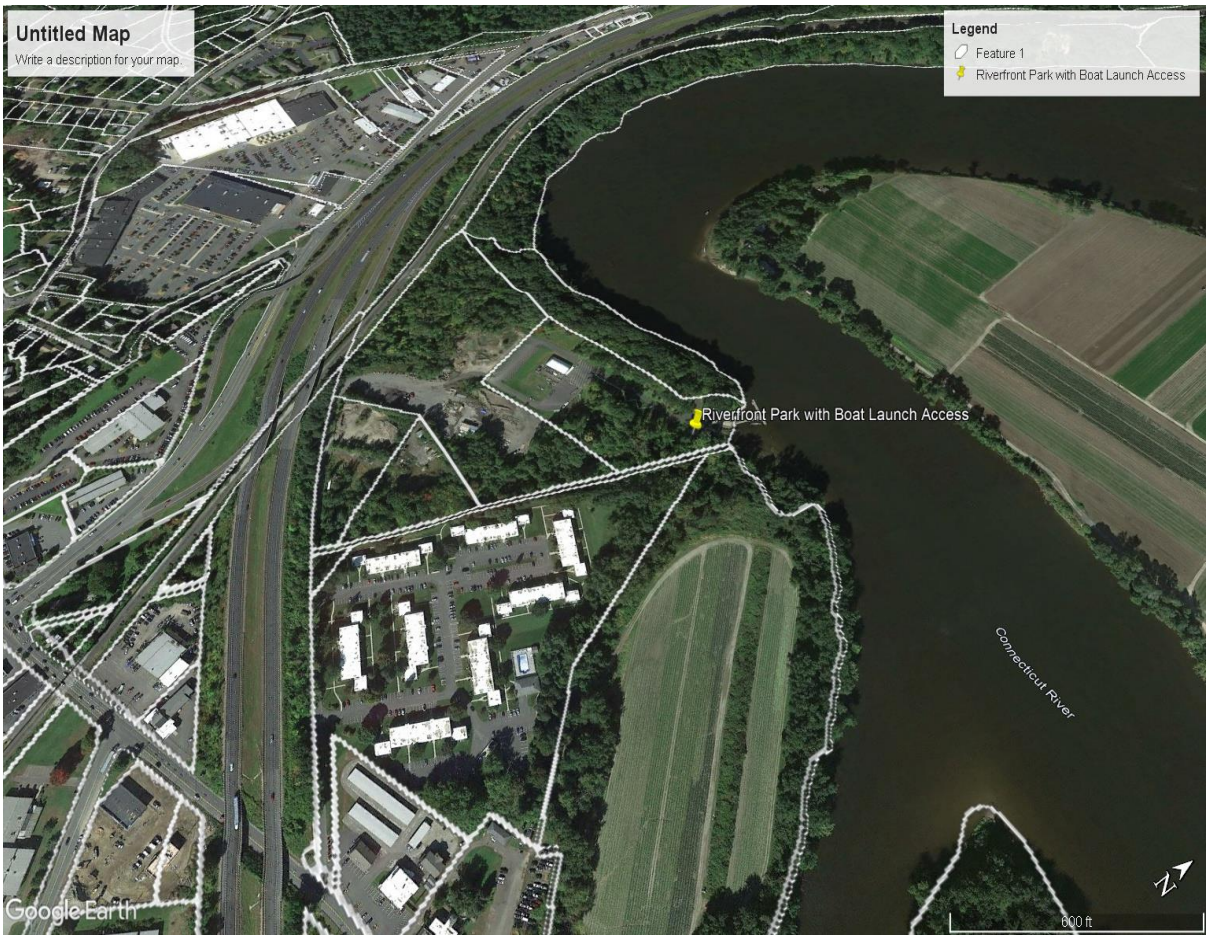
The Connecticut River site has already experienced intense use and overuse during peak summer heat waves without adequate facilities being provided and has resulted in misuse with trash and human waste being left behind.

The City has limited resources to manage existing recreation and conservation areas and resources to support increased use and new recreation needs may be limited.

In 2021, the City engaged a consultant team to conduct a feasibility study of multiple river sites throughout the City for the possibility of public improvements to enhance water access to address increased demand for swimming and cooling during peak summer days. (see attached excerpt related to the Connecticut River analysis). For the full citywide study see this link. During the summer of 2022, because the naturally created beach at the boat launch park along the Connecticut River provided water access for boaters coming from elsewhere as well as shore access, the Connecticut River site experienced an unsustainable level of users on peak heat weekends. Because there are no sanitary or trash facilities and no monitoring of this public park, the City has determined that it is appropriate to explore a long term solution to managing this important resource.

Ownership:

- The City Parks & Recreation Department owns approximately 6 acres of the park property, with approximately 7 acres belonging to the City's Conservation Commission abutting the river. See survey here and attached aerial photo.



- Northampton Parks are carry-in, carry-out.
- There are no restrooms or infrastructure nor water or sewer infrastructure.
- The beach has become a popular swimming destination. It is reachable by land and by boat.

History:

a. The park was built in 2013-2014
b. Northampton Community Rowing (NCR) has a lease on a portion of the property that contains their boathouse hut, and runs their programs from the park. As a part of their lease agreement. NCR is responsible for repair and maintenance of the docks.
c. The park is not staffed.

2. General Requirements/Deliverables
    a. Break down timeline and costs for feasibility
    b. In general, the effort includes modeling effort, report, and preliminary assessment of alternative solutions.
    c. Perform geotechnical analysis for all design efforts if needed.
    d. Provide a Bathymetric Survey that measures the depth of a water body, maps underwater features, and provides data
    e. Water Front Engineering
        i. Provide a report on swim safety, water quality, beach sustainability, a preliminary explanation of possible solutions and how to delineate access for all users, remedies, construction estimates, and a potential construction schedule.
    f. Beach Sustainability
        i. Beach sustainability in high and low water levels
    g. Water quality
        i. Define any problem(s) and solutions.
    h. Provide scope and timeline for developing feasibility with go/no go determination for full design.
    i. If site is suitable for long term swimming area, provide scope and timeline for full design of recommended solutions with:
        i. Explanation and estimate on costs to complete various solutions
        ii. Staffing Requirements
        iii. Anticipated Maintenance requirements, costs

3. Description of Organization
    a. Experience with similar projects Involving natural riverbed and recreation design and development.
    b. Key project management team, qualifications, experience
    c. Examples of prior project experience.
    d. Description of the Organization's Experience: Include a list of similar projects that the consultant has participated with during the past five years. Attach a separate sheet for each project, up to five maximum, giving a brief description of each project, the consultant's participation, and a client contact reference and phone number. Provide a list of three (3) references that can be contacted with questions regarding your past work.